

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 37 (cancelled)

Claim 38 (currently amended): Apparatus for producing stranded metal cables of different gauge, comprising equipment for assembling metal wires for cable formation from a supply of such metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area, and a machine for stranding the assembled wires into a cable, wherein the wires from the supply advance through the assembling equipment to the stranding machine in spaced relation and then in assembled relation to each other, the apparatus comprising at least two adjustable ~~or~~ and/or replaceable roll sets positioned between said supply and said stranding machine, each roll set being configured and disposed for separately rolling each advancing wire, at a location at which the wires are in spaced relation to each other, to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by an amount less than that at which brittleness of the wires is caused.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 40%.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 30%.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each roll set is configured to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by no more than 25%.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, having just two roll sets for each wire.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, having three roll sets for each wire.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38, including means for axially rotating the wires between the roll sets.

Claim 45 (original): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said means for axially rotating the wires rotates the wires through an angle of 45 to 135°.

Claim 46 (new): Apparatus for producing stranded metal cables of different gauge, comprising equipment for assembling metal wires for cable formation from a supply of such metal wires all of the same initial cross-sectional area, and a machine for stranding the assembled wires into a cable, wherein the stranding machine includes a pulling device for advancing the wires from the supply through the assembling equipment and to and through the stranding machine and the assembling equipment guides the wires advancing

therethrough in spaced relation to each other and then convergently into assembled relation to each other, the apparatus comprising at least two adjustable and/or replaceable roll sets positioned between said supply and said stranding machine, each roll set being configured and disposed for separately rolling each advancing wire, at a location at which the wires are in spaced relation to each other, to reduce the cross-sectional area of the wire by an amount less than that at which brittleness of the wires is caused.